

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 9, with the following redlined paragraph:

The extension can be made by mapping each element of $GF(p')$, which appears in the starting matrix, in the corresponding element of the extended field. The correspondence between the elements of the two fields is expressed in the representation of $GF(p'^s)$ on $GF(p')$, alongside which is to be set a representation of $GF(p'^s)$ on ~~$GF(p)$~~ $GF(p')$, which enables the performance in p -ary logic of the operations of encoding and decoding.